



## **Governor Herrera's Weekly COVID-19 Update – 10/14/2020**

### **(Video Script)**

Greetings! This is Governor Herrera. I hope you and your family are well.

I'd like to begin with Paraje Feast Day activities...As you are aware, the feast day is fast approaching on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The village officials have been approached by many of you asking what will and will not be allowed for the feast day. With the COVID-19 pandemic, public health emergency at extreme levels, and the number of cases rising in the last couple of weeks, it is of utmost importance that we adhere to all safety and precautionary measures so that we don't contribute to the spread of the virus. This being said, and in the spirit of safety and adherence to the executive order, Paraje Village Officials are asking members to assist in the following manner: No selling from your homes, vehicles, stands, or any locations; No opening of the homes to the general public for feeding; Do not convene in large groups beyond 5 people. (This is a rule in the current executive order); Do not invite others to the village for any activities that will cause a crowd to form; There will be no feast day dances, mass or any gatherings of this nature; No throwing/Grab Day activities; Mayordomos have been posting at checkpoints over the last 6 months, please help them to continue to keep the village areas safe by adhering to the curfew and not bringing outsiders into the village proper for extended periods of time.

Your assistance and cooperation are greatly appreciated. Like many of you, we as officers want to partake in all our normal feast day activities, but safety and well-being during this public health emergency has to be priority.

Next, a letter of the cancellation of Halloween activities within the Pueblo are being distributed to community members. Some of you may have received these at your check points. You can also find this letter on the POL website. Again, Halloween activities are canceled for the Pueblo. Here are high-risk activities you should avoid: traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating, trunk-or-treat events from trunks of cars, attending crowded indoor parties, indoor haunted houses, hayrides or tractor rides with people outside of your household, or traveling to another community for Halloween events. Some safe and low-risk activities your household can enjoy include: pumpkin carving and decorating, decorating your house or living space, doing a Halloween scavenger hunt with members of your household, virtual Halloween costume contests, or having a Halloween movie night with the people you live with.

Next, All Saints/All Souls Day is fast approaching for families who celebrate on November 1<sup>st</sup> or November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Pueblo is allowing this event to continue with restrictions. Please only celebrate with members of your household. When planning for shopping please try to use online ordering and curbside pickup services if you are needing to travel outside of the Pueblo. When at the grave site, please practice social distancing of 6 feet away from others and wear a face mask.

COVID-19 cases continue to increase Nationally, in our State, and on the Pueblo. As a result, Governor Grisham has reimplemented more strict regulations to the States Public Health Order. As stated before, the Pueblo has its own regulations that have remained consistent throughout the pandemic and continues to be in effect until further notice. Last week the POL EOC was notified of 8 new positive cases in a neighboring community due to a social gathering and, last week, the New Mexico Department of Health reported the State of NM's highest daily positive case count at 488. With the increase cases of COVID-19, I must stress the importance of staying home as much as possible and only conducting essential travel. This graph from the NMDOH shows what essential travel should be conducted to help our community and the State to stop the spread of COVID-19. Beginning from your home there are three (3) main activities you should limit travel for which include work, self-care, and to conduct errands. Self-care means medical/eye/dental appointments, and walking/running/biking outdoors alone or with members of your household. It does not mean going to the spa or salons or indoor gyms. These are considered high-risk activities! Errands include groceries, medications, taking care of elders, farming or ranching, and emergency home or vehicle repair. It does not mean attending large in-person gatherings, visiting multiple households, indoor restaurant dining, or any activity that has the potential for large group attendance and unsafe practices. Remember the virus easily spreads as we travel!

Speaking of travel, Out-of-State Travel is highly discouraged for POL residents and the travel ban is still in place for all POL employees. The POL EOC has received multiple calls from tribal members seeking guidance for out-of-state hunts. As it stands, no travel out-of-state should be conducted no matter the activity or event taking place. Please remember, that if you do need to travel out-of-state, you will be required to quarantine for 14-days and be tested before you can resume your daily activities in the community. For further guidance please contact the EOC hotline at (505) 328-5682.

Another favorite activity around this time is pinon picking. To keep you and your family safe please keep this activity to the members within your household, no large gatherings of 5 or more, do not invite additional households to join your household for parties or picnics, keep a safe distance from other groups, and please stay within the state.

Now for the POL COVID-19 case update, the Pueblo stands at 48 positive cases, 46 recovered, 1 deceased, and 1 active case within the Pueblo boundaries. Currently, 14 households are under quarantine which includes 42 people within the Pueblo boundaries. I want to remind everyone again that a second wave of this virus is beginning to show, so we need to ensure that our community is prepared by maintaining all COVID-19 safe practices.

Next, I'd like to provide information on the COVID-19 Hardship Assistance Program Phase 1 (CHAP-1). This is a needs-based assistance program approved by Council for all "adult regular enrolled Laguna members" over the age of 18 years old who have suffered income loss and expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is not an income-need base application. Applications will be mailed out soon with a return stamped envelope. Please keep an eye out for this application which will provide instructions. An individual will not be denied unless the application is not completely filled out or if an individual cannot identify a need. More details will be provided in next week's video. Please make sure your address is up to date with the Enrollment Office by calling (505) 552-6654.

Now, you may want to have your calendars ready to mark these important dates:

First, the Pueblo will be hosting a COVID-19 test and Flu Vaccine event that will be scheduled before the end of the month. Incentives will be given out to those brave enough to be swabbed for COVID-19 and vaccinated for the flu. Keep an eye out for this announcement coming soon!

Next, the Pueblo-wide election will be coming up on December 21, 2020. The Pueblo election will be conducted by 100% absentee ballot and ballots will be mailed out no later than November 6<sup>th</sup> to each tribal member. Please make sure your address is updated with the Enrollment Office by October 31, 2020 by contacting them at (505) 552-6654.

The 2020 "early voting" for the National General Election is restricted to one day and one voting poll site. Early voting for the Pueblo will begin at 8:00am-4:00pm on October 24, 2020 at the Pueblo of Laguna Tribal Auditorium. The 2020 National General Election is restricted to one voting poll site. It will be held on November 3, 2020 from 7:00am-7:00pm at the Pueblo of Laguna Tribal Auditorium. If you have questions, please contact the Secretary's Office at (505) 552-6654.

In, closing please continue the efforts to keep your family and community safe by following all the COVID-19 safe practices. Please do not gather in groups larger than 5, socialize at a distance, wash your hands, wear a face mask if you must go out, don't touch your face with unwashed hands, and stay at home to the greatest extent possible. I wish you all well and continued good health to you and your family. Stay safe. Thank you!